State of Arizona Senate Forty-fifth Legislature First Regular Session 2001

CHAPTER 163

# **SENATE BILL 1136**

#### AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 42-1104, 42-2003, 43-327 AND 43-1148, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO TAX ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Section 42-1104, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

#### 42-1104. Statutes of limitation; exceptions

- A. For the taxes to which this article applies every notice of every additional tax due shall be prepared on forms prescribed by the department and mailed within four years after the report or return is required to be filed or within four years after the report or return is filed, whichever period expires later.
- B. The following are exceptions to the general rules prescribed by this section, and a deficiency assessment may be issued in any of the following cases:
- 1. The department may assess the tax or begin a proceeding in court for the collection of the tax at any time:
- (a) In the case of a false or fraudulent return with the intent to evade tax.
  - (b) In the case of failure to file a return.
- 2. If a taxpayer omits from gross income, gross receipts, gross proceeds of sales or Arizona adjusted gross income, as defined for purposes of chapter 5 of this title or title 43, an amount which is properly includible and which is in excess of twenty-five per cent of the amount of gross income stated in the return, the tax may be assessed at any time within six years after the return was filed.
- 3. If a taxpayer during a taxable year sells at a gain property used as the taxpayer's principal residence, the statutory period for the assessment of any deficiency attributable to any part of the gain does not expire before the expiration of four years from the date the taxpayer notifies the United States internal revenue service pursuant to the United States internal revenue code.
- 4. If a claim for credit or refund relates to an overpayment on account of the deductibility of a debt as one which became worthless, a loss from worthlessness of a security, an erroneous inclusion of an amount attributable to the recovery of a bad debt, prior tax or delinquency amount due to an adjustment of a bad debt deduction or a loss deduction from worthlessness of a security, the period of limitation is seven years from the date prescribed by law for filing the return for the year with respect to which the claim is made.
- 5. If a taxpayer fails to report a change or correction by the commissioner of internal revenue or other officer of the United States or other competent authority or fails to file an amended return as required by section 43-327, the department may assess any deficiency resulting from such adjustments within four years after the change, correction or amended return is reported to or filed with the United States internal revenue service regardless of any previous examinations by the department.

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- 6. If a taxpayer is required to report a change or correction by the commissioner of internal revenue or other officer of the United States or other competent authority or to file an amended return as required by section 43-327 and does report the change or files the return, any deficiency resulting from the adjustments may be assessed within six months from the date the notice of amended return is filed with the department by the taxpayer, or within the period provided in subsection A of this section or paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection, whichever period expires last.
- 7. If a taxpayer agrees with the United States commissioner of internal revenue for an extension or renewals of the period for proposing and assessing deficiencies in federal income taxes for any year, the period for mailing a notice of a proposed income tax deficiency is four years after the return was filed or six months after the date of the expiration of the agreed period for assessing deficiencies in the federal income tax, whichever period expires later EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH 8 OF THIS SUBSECTION.
- 8. IF A TAXPAYER AGREES WITH THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE FOR A LIMITED EXTENSION OR RENEWALS OF THE PERIOD FOR PROPOSING AND ASSESSING DEFICIENCIES IN FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FOR ANY YEAR, THEN, SOLELY WITH RESPECT TO THOSE ITEMS SPECIFICALLY ENUMERATED IN THIS AGREEMENT, THE PERIOD FOR MAILING A NOTICE OF A PROPOSED INCOME TAX DEFICIENCY, OR CLAIMING A REFUND, IS FOUR YEARS AFTER THE RETURN WAS FILED OR SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE AGREED PERIOD FOR ASSESSING DEFICIENCIES IN THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX, WHICHEVER PERIOD EXPIRES LATER.
- 8. 9. If, before the expiration of the time prescribed for the mailing of a notice of a proposed deficiency assessment, the taxpayer consents in writing to an assessment after that time, the assessment may be made at any time before the expiration of the period agreed on. The period agreed on may be extended by subsequent written agreements made before the expiration of the period previously agreed on.
- C. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section and subsection B, paragraphs 1 and 2 of this section, a taxpayer who has a duty to collect use tax shall not be assessed tax pursuant to chapter 5, article 4 of this title for any retail sales to purchasers who were licensed pursuant to section 42-5005 or registered pursuant to section 42-5154 and who filed use tax returns for the reporting period in which the sale was made, if the reporting period in which the sale was made is more than four years from the notice of proposed deficiency. If, before the expiration of this time limitation, the taxpayer consents in writing to an assessment after that time for the transactions, a subsequent assessment may include any transaction within the agreed extended period. The period agreed to may be extended by subsequent written agreements made before the expiration of the period previously agreed to.

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Sec. 2. Section 42-2003, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 42-2003. <u>Authorized disclosure of confidential information</u>

- A. Confidential information relating to:
- 1. A taxpayer may be disclosed to the taxpayer, its successor in interest or a designee of the taxpayer who is authorized in writing by the taxpayer. A PRINCIPAL CORPORATE OFFICER OF A PARENT CORPORATION MAY EXECUTE A WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FOR A CONTROLLED SUBSIDIARY.
- 2. A corporate taxpayer may be disclosed to any principal officer of the corporation. , ANY PERSON DESIGNATED BY A PRINCIPAL OFFICER OR ANY PERSON DESIGNATED IN A RESOLUTION BY THE CORPORATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR OTHER SIMILAR GOVERNING BODY.
- 3. A partnership may be disclosed to any partner of the partnership. This exception does not include disclosure of confidential information of a particular partner unless otherwise authorized.
- 4. An estate may be disclosed to the personal representative of the estate and to any heir, next of kin or beneficiary under the will of the decedent if the department finds that the heir, next of kin or beneficiary has a material interest which will be affected by the confidential information.
- 5. A trust may be disclosed to the trustee or trustees, jointly or separately, and to the grantor or any beneficiary of the trust if the department finds that the grantor or beneficiary has a material interest which will be affected by the confidential information.
- 6. Any taxpayer may be disclosed if the taxpayer has waived any rights to confidentiality either in writing or on the record in any administrative or judicial proceeding.
- 7. A claimant may be disclosed to the claimant, its successor in interest or a designee of the claimant pursuant to written authorization by the claimant.
  - B. Confidential information may be disclosed to:
- 1. Any employee of the department whose official duties involve tax or unclaimed property administration.
- 2. The office of the attorney general solely for its use in preparation for, or in an investigation which may result in, any proceeding involving tax or unclaimed property administration before the department or any other agency or board of this state, or before any grand jury or any state or federal court.
- 3. The department of liquor licenses and control for its use in determining whether a spirituous liquor licensee has paid all transaction privilege taxes and affiliated excise taxes incurred as a result of the sale of spirituous liquor at the licensed establishment and imposed on the licensed establishments by this state and its political subdivisions.
- 4. Other state tax or unclaimed property officials of this state whose official duties require the disclosure for proper tax or unclaimed property administration purposes if the information is sought in connection with an

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investigation or any other proceeding conducted by the official. Any disclosure is limited to information of a taxpayer or claimant who is being investigated or who is a party to a proceeding conducted by the official.

- 5. The following agencies, officials and organizations, if they grant substantially similar privileges to the department for the type of information being sought, pursuant to statute and a written agreement between the department and the foreign country, agency, state, Indian tribe or organization:
- (a) The United States internal revenue service, United States bureau of alcohol, tobacco and firearms, United States drug enforcement agency and federal bureau of investigation.
  - (b) A state tax or unclaimed property official of another state.
- (c) An organization of states that operates an information exchange for tax administration purposes.
- (d) An agency, official or organization of a foreign country with responsibilities that are comparable to those listed in subdivision (a), (b) or (c) of this paragraph.
- (e) An agency, official or organization of an Indian tribal government with responsibilities comparable to the responsibilities of the agencies, officials or organizations identified in subdivision (a), (b) or (c) of this paragraph.
- 6. The auditor general, in connection with any audit of the department subject to the restrictions in section 42-2002, subsection C.
- 7. Any person to the extent necessary for effective tax or unclaimed property administration in connection with:
- (a) The processing, storage, transmission and reproduction of the information.
- (b) The programming, maintenance, repair, testing and procurement of equipment for purposes of tax administration.
- 8. The office of administrative hearings relating to taxes administered by the department pursuant to section 42-1101, but the department shall not disclose any confidential information:
  - (a) Regarding income tax, withholding tax or estate tax.
- (b) On any tax issue relating to information associated with the reporting of income tax, withholding tax or estate tax.
- 9. The United States treasury inspector general for tax administration for the purpose of reporting a violation of internal revenue code section 7213(A)  $\frac{1}{100}$  (26 United States Code section 7213(A))  $\frac{1}{100}$ , unauthorized inspection of returns or return information.
- C. Confidential information may be disclosed in any state or federal judicial or administrative proceeding pertaining to tax or unclaimed property administration if the taxpayer or claimant is a party to the proceeding.
  - D. Identity information may be disclosed for purposes of notifying:
- 1. Persons entitled to tax refunds if the department is unable to locate the persons after reasonable effort.

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- Owners of unclaimed property pursuant to section 44-309.
- E. The department, upon the request of any person, shall provide the names and addresses of bingo licensees as defined in section 5-401 or verify whether or not a person has a privilege license and number or withholding license and number.
- F. A department employee, in connection with the official duties relating to any audit, collection activity or civil or criminal investigation, may disclose return information to the extent that disclosure is necessary to obtain information which is not otherwise reasonably available. These official duties include the correct determination of and liability for tax, the amount to be collected or the enforcement of other state tax revenue laws.
- G. If an organization is exempt from this state's income tax as provided in section 43-1201 for any taxable year, the name and address of the organization and the application filed by the organization upon which the department made its determination for exemption together with any papers submitted in support of the application and any letter or document issued by the department concerning the application are open to public inspection.
- H. Confidential information relating to transaction privilege tax, use tax and rental occupancy tax may be disclosed to any county, city or town tax official if the information relates to a taxpayer who is or may be taxable by the county, city or town. Any taxpayer information released by the department to the county, city or town:
  - 1. May only be used for internal purposes.
- 2. May not be disclosed to the public in any manner that does not comply with confidentiality standards established by the department. The county, city or town shall agree in writing with the department that any release of confidential information that violates the confidentiality standards adopted by the department will result in the immediate suspension of any rights of the county, city or town to receive taxpayer information under this subsection.
- I. The department may disclose statistical information gathered from confidential information if it does not disclose confidential information attributable to any one taxpayer or claimant of unclaimed property. In order to comply with the requirements of section 42-5029, subsection A, paragraph 3, the department may disclose to the state treasurer statistical information gathered from confidential information, even if it discloses confidential information attributable to a taxpayer.
- J. Except as provided in section 42-2002, subsection B, confidential information, described in section 42-2001, paragraph 3, subdivision (a), item (iii), may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies for law enforcement purposes.
- K. The department may disclose and publish the names of corporations, the dividends of which qualify for the subtraction provided by section 43-1128.

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- L. The department may provide transaction privilege tax license information to property tax officials in a county for the purpose of identification and verification of the tax status of commercial property.
- M. The department may provide transaction privilege tax, luxury tax, use tax, property tax and severance tax information to the ombudsman-citizens aide pursuant to title 41, chapter 8, article 5.
- N. Except as provided in section 42-2002, subsection C, a court may order the department to disclose confidential information pertaining to a party to an action. An order shall be made only upon a showing of good cause and that the party seeking the information has made demand upon the taxpayer or claimant for the information.
- O. This section does not prohibit the disclosure by the department of any information or documents submitted to the department by a bingo licensee. Before disclosing the information the department shall obtain the name and address of the person requesting the information.
- P. If the department is required or permitted to disclose confidential information, it may charge the person or agency requesting the information for the reasonable cost of its services.
- Q. Except as provided in section 42-2002, subsection C, the department of revenue shall release confidential information as requested by the department of economic security pursuant to section 42-1122 or 46-291. Information disclosed under this subsection is limited to the same type of information that the United States internal revenue service is authorized to disclose under section 6103(1)(6) of the internal revenue code.
- R. To comply with the requirements of section 42-5031, the department may disclose to the state treasurer, to the county stadium district board of directors and to any city or town tax official that is part of the county stadium district confidential information attributable to a taxpayer's business activity conducted in the county stadium district.
  - Sec. 3. Section 43-327, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 43-327. Recomputation of tax or amended return due after federal adjustment
- A. If the amount of taxable income for any year of any taxpayer as reported to the United States treasury department is changed or corrected by the commissioner of internal revenue or other officer of the United States or other competent authority, or if a renegotiation of a contract or subcontract with the United States results in a change in taxable income, such taxpayer shall report such change or correct taxable income, or the results of such renegotiation, within ninety days after the final determination of such change or correction or renegotiation EITHER:
- 1. FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT A COPY OF THE FINAL DETERMINATION, CONCEDE THE ACCURACY OF THE DETERMINATION OR STATE ANY ERRORS AND REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO RECOMPUTE THE TAX OWED TO THIS STATE. RECOMPUTING THE TAX BY THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE AN AUDIT FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 42-2059. TOT

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- 2. File an amended return as required by the department of revenue, , and shall concede the accuracy of such determination or state any errors.
- B. THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE AN AMENDED RETURN IF THE DEPARTMENT LACKS THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO RECOMPUTE THE TAX OWED TO THIS STATE.
- 8. C. Any taxpayer filing an amended return with the United States treasury department shall also file within ninety days an amended return with the department of revenue which shall contain such information as it shall require.
  - Sec. 4. Section 43-1148, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 43-1148. Apportionment by department
- A. If the allocation and apportionment provisions of this article do not fairly represent the extent of the taxpayer's business activity in this state, the taxpayer may petition for or the department may require, in respect to all or any part of the taxpayer's business activity, if reasonable, any of the following:
- 1. Separate accounting, except with respect to an Arizona affiliated group, as defined in section 43-947.
  - 2. The exclusion of any one or more of the factors.
- 3. The inclusion of one or more additional factors which will fairly represent the taxpayer's business activity in this state.
- 4. The employment of any other method to effectuate an equitable allocation and apportionment of the taxpayer's income, other than disallowing a properly elected consolidated return.
- B. IF THE DEPARTMENT, IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS DISCRETION, DETERMINES THAT AN ADJUSTMENT IS NECESSARY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, IT MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, AUTHORIZE SUCH AN ADJUSTMENT FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN ONE TAXABLE YEAR.

### Sec. 5. Effective date

Section 42-1104, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act, is effective and applies to taxable years beginning from and after December 31, 2001.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 20, 2001.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 20, 2001.

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by the following vote:55 Ayes,	by the following vote: Ayes,			
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